

Michigan
Department
of Human
Services

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Articles in Today's Clips

Thursday, June 29, 2006

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New fed rules should not force state changes, officials say

Gongwer News Service

June 28, 2006

New rules issued by the federal government to get at least half of all welfare recipients into work should not force Michigan to make major changes in its JET job training program to move people into training and work, Department of Human Services officials said Wednesday.

But officials are also hoping to file comment with the federal government, urging it to expand the definition of eligible education programs to include basic education.

All the states are already under requirements to get half their welfare recipients into work by October, but many of the states, including Michigan, are going to miss that requirement.

The new rules require that by October the states produce plans to move its recipients into employment and that those plans be in place with results a year later.

Karen Stock of the DHS said the department is still reviewing the 139 pages of rules, but so far had seen nothing that would cause it to make major changes to its "jobs, education, training" program to move welfare recipients into employment.

Ms. Stock said the state was pleased that the rules allow states to recognize that recipients in substance abuse and mental health programs as meeting eligibility under the work rules. But the program only allows for six weeks of those programs to be counted.

In addition, the rules do allow for a person to be considered meeting eligibility requirements if he or she is in an educational program that applies to vocational training.

But in a radio interview, DHS director Marianne Udow said the state has determined that nearly half the state's welfare recipients are functionally illiterate. And Ms. Stock said state officials intend to argue that basis education programs should also be considered for eligibility.

Welfare change requires up to 300,000 to work

New rules outline approved activities to fill requirement

By PAMELA BROGAN

Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — An additional 200,000 to 300,000 welfare recipients will be required to work under new federal rules announced Wednesday for the nation's 1.8 million welfare families.

To qualify for welfare, recipients must work at least 30 hours per week. Under the new tightened work rules, twenty-hours must be in approved activities such as public or private jobs, training related to a job, vocational training, job search, community service, or providing day care for persons performing community service.

Another 10 hours of approved work activities could consist of attending high school, substance abuse, mental health, or rehabilitation activities, according to the new guidelines released Wednesday by the Department of Health and Human Services.

No longer will states be allowed to count smoking cessation and weight reduction programs as part of a welfare recipient's work requirement.

"Some states have been more creative than others" in how they define work under welfare," said

Wade Horn, who oversees the nation's welfare program at HHS.

The rules, which become effective in October, define what counts as work in 12 activities cited in federal law. The rules were required in the \$39 billion budget-cutting bill President Bush signed in February.

The rules also require that states have 50 percent of welfare recipients in approved work activities or risk losing 5 percent of their federal funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

States officials also must validate that welfare recipients are participating in approved work activities or they risk losing a percentage of their federal welfare dollars.

State welfare officials are concerned that the new requirements will be costly to the states. The Bush administration provided an additional \$500 million for child care over the five-year program, a fraction of the \$4 billion that the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said was necessary for parents to meet the new work requirements.

Contact Pamela Brogan at brogan@gns.gannett.com.

Gaps in service may hurt children

Thursday, June 29, 2006

By Susan J. Demass

Jackson Citizen Patriot

Teen pregnancy, child abuse, infant death are among the problems that have plagued Jackson County for decades -- and the new Kids Count study shows they're not going away.

It's not for lack of trying. When there's a crisis facing children, a local group tries to address it. A veritable alphabet soup of organizations usually jumps in -- from churches to county government, from Foote Hospital to United Way.

And that might be part of the problem, leaders say.

"We have so many resources, but we need to look at everything we're doing," said Kristin Klug of Community Action Agency. "We need to see where the gaps are."

That's what Klug has been doing since April, when she began coordinating the county's Great Start program funded with a \$150,000 state grant. The 60-member collective aims to pool community resources and devise an action plan to tackle persistent early childhood problems. That's the approach United Way of Jackson County has taken, teaming up with the county Department of Public Health in its \$75,000 teen pregnancy prevention initiative.

At the same time, four other programs aim to curb teen pregnancy.

Child maltreatment is a similar case, with the **Department of Human Services**, Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and AWARE shelter stepping in to help. The county Health Department, Fetal Infant Mortality Review and Jackson County Prenatal Task Force all focus on infant mortality.

Coordinating programs and making sure they reach all families -- not just low-income people -- is key, Klug argues.

So what else is harming children's well-being?

The stalled economy, for one thing. While Jackson is in the middle of the pack of Michigan counties in child poverty, the number of children eligible for free and reduced-price school lunches and low-income health insurance are on the upswing.

Problems often are ingrained in families, passed on from generation to generation, said Bethany Timmons, United Way director of Community Impact.

"It takes time for changes to occur," she said.

It also takes money. That's in short supply these days with a slashed state budget.

The Legislature cut the anti-child abuse program **Families First** by 17 percent -- from \$21 million in 2000 to \$17.4 million in 2006. Funding for prenatal care and to prevent infant mortality slid 19 percent, from \$9 million in 2000 to \$7.3 million in 2006.

Child advocates contend that Michigan's youngest citizens are paying the price.

Politicians score few political points by taking on complex problems such as maternal health, argued Michele Corey, Michigan's Children spokeswoman.

"A tax cut gives you an immediate result," she said. "Investing in child abuse prevention -- not so much."

That's leaving private nonprofits to pick up where government has left off. One of the priorities of Great Start is to secure funding from local businesses in case state money dries up completely. The Kids Count survey isn't good news, Klug acknowledged, but local groups aren't demoralized.

"There are so many people in the Jackson community who care about kids," she said. "The mentality is we keep trying,"

Poverty: Kids Count report on Michigan children should outrage all

A Lansing State Journal editorial

Published June 29, 2006

The child poverty figures contained in the latest Kids Count report are a travesty for Michigan.

Yes, economic times are tough. But how can anyone in Michigan be idle in the face of a 29 percent increase in child poverty?

Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Republican challenger Dick DeVos owe it to Michigan voters to address the issue of child poverty with their campaigns, and with specific ideas for action.

According to Kids Count, a nonprofit group, the percentage of Michigan children in poverty rose from 14 percent in 2000 to 18 percent in 2004. A possible silver lining, such as it is, comes from the delayed nature of the reporting. Michigan might be better in 2006 than it was in 2004. There are no certain figures on that.

What is certain is that Michigan's leaders can't treat childhood poverty as an ancillary issue.

Years and years of study have found that children in poverty are more likely to suffer a wide range of problems, from educational struggles to health issues now and later in life.

Granholm and DeVos have made jobs the centerpiece of their campaigns. And employment is an essential factor in poverty.

As childhood poverty was rising in Michigan so were the number of children in families where no parent had full-time employment, Kids Count reported.

But poverty goes beyond jobs to issues of under-employment or even opportunity.

A 29 percent increase in just four years raises an uncomfortable, but necessary, question: Is poverty a bigger part of our society because many who suffer in it may look different, or may live well away; out of sight, out of mind?

To succeed, people have to want to work. But there are circumstances that can keep even the eager unemployed, such as availability of day care or even reliable transportation from home to work.

Address those issues, candidates. And let's put this 29 percent figure in Michigan's past.

World's richest should focus on help at home

June 29, 2006

BY DESIREE COOPER

FREE PRESS COLUMNIST

A billion, a schmillion.

The second-richest man in the world, Warren Buffett, has joined forces with the first, Bill Gates, to form a charitable foundation that can rain down almost as much money as God.

I'm dazzled by the possibilities for world transformation. But when I see the money going toward stemming the AIDS crisis in Botswana or immunizing children in Third World countries, I want to holler, "Yo! We're right here in your own backyard!"

Not a handout, a lift up

First of all, I'm painfully aware: Gates and Buffett don't owe us anything. And they do a ton of good deeds domestically. Still, why not focus those kabillions on the city that's become the poster child for urban decay?

Detroit has done a yeoman's job pulling itself up by the bootstraps, especially considering that we don't have any. We've hit some major home runs of late, experiencing a housing boom when the rest of the metro area is going bust, and playing host to major events like the All Star Game and the Super Bowl. Promising redevelopments are springing up like daisies in our fallow fields of ruin.

So we've proven that we can overcome. We don't need a handout, just someone to help us fill in the deep hole of misery so that we can rebuild on level ground.

A shopping list for the city

How much would it take?

Well, it's taken \$176 million to redeem just one decaying monument to our glorious past: the Book-Cadillac Hotel. Multiply that by relics like the Michigan Central Depot and the dilapidated Detroit police headquarters, and we're well on our way to \$1 billion.

In Wayne County, which includes the city of Detroit, the percentage of children younger than 16 in poverty jumped 5% -- to 30% -- between 2003 and 2004. To help those families peek above the federal poverty level (\$19,311 for a family of four in 2004), it may take untold millions in education.

This week, the Detroit Public Schools proposed a budget calling for its unions to give \$105 million in concessions to balance the books. The red ink has been fueled by a loss of 11,600 students between the fall 2004 and 2005, costing the district \$64 million in state aid. Seems to me that a \$200-million infusion could stop the hemorrhaging and perhaps chip away at other problems including low teacher salaries, aging facilities and, most importantly, poor student outcomes.

And what about the fact that Detroit has stacked up \$400 million in tax abatements over the past six years? We'd really love to get that money back. To restore bulk trash, reclaim the Detroit Zoo, open the Belle Isle Aquarium and keep the Rackham Golf Course? Priceless.

Gates and Buffett are determined to stem the nation's dropout rate and improve global health -- and God bless them. But I wish they could toss a few billion our way -- or at least buy us some new bootstraps.

Contact **DESIREE COOPER** at dcooper@freepress.com

Avoid health experiments on most vulnerable

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Editorial Rebuttal

Detroit News

Contrary to the June 15 commentary ("Michigan snubs innovative way to rein in health costs"), Michigan's ability to control costs while providing high-quality health care services has resulted in Medicaid per capita spending growing only 1 percent last year, compared with 11 percent for private insurance.

We have not reduced our state's Medicaid program, but have instead stretched every dollar to provide quality services.

Despite these innovations, the growing cost of health care has taxed our employer-based health care system. That is why Gov. Jennifer Granholm has proposed an aggressive plan to improve access to health care services.

The Michigan First Health Care Plan will give universal access for Michigan citizens to affordable private health care plans, not a "big government" plan as Shikha Dalmia would have readers believe.

Most important, this plan will help small business employees, the self-employed and working poor -- most of whom do not have access to employer-paid health insurance and do not qualify for Medicaid. And it won't increase costs to taxpayers.

The author leads readers to believe Michigan has rejected the idea of health opportunity accounts (otherwise known as health savings accounts). This is not the case. We have been discussing federally funded health opportunity accounts and learning how they could impact Michigan. If you're healthy and wealthy and have almost no health care costs, these accounts might make perfect sense. However, without proper precautions, these accounts might not save taxpayers a single dollar and may shift risk to our most at-risk populations -- children, low-income individuals, elderly and the disabled.

Embracing them prematurely only amounts to experimentation on the most vulnerable.

Janet Olszewski, Director

Michigan Department of Community Health

Lansing

Medicaid law challenged

June 29, 2006

Reported in Detroit Free Press

WASHINGTON:

A law that requires Medicaid beneficiaries to prove their citizenship before obtaining health benefits is unconstitutional and should not be allowed to take effect July 1, according to a class action filed Wednesday.

The lawsuit was filed in federal district court in Chicago.

Consumer groups publicizing the lawsuit said the law could cause millions of low-income citizens to become uninsured.

In the lawsuit, the court is asked to enjoin the Bush administration from implementing the law. Congress passed legislation earlier this year designed to ensure that only citizens or qualified legal immigrants gain access to Medicaid, which is the state-federal health insurance program for poor people.

More than 50 million people get health care through the program.

Compiled from the Associated Press

Health plan is union friendly

Tax-free supplemental retirement medical fund is the first specifically aimed at U.S. laborers

Sharon Terlep

The Detroit News

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Putnam Investments, one of the nation's largest money management companies, has begun offering members of the nation's labor unions a new financial service to help them defray health-care costs during retirement.

The supplemental medical fund, the first geared specifically for labor unions, is touted as another financial tool to help future retirees manage health-care costs, especially as the auto industry and other trades require former workers to pay more out-of-pocket expenses.

The Putnam Health Reimbursement Account will especially benefit retired laborers who face some of the highest health-care costs, driven by medical problems caused by years of manual labor.

Workers in physically demanding jobs also tend to retire before Medicare benefits kick in at age 65.

Under the HRA, individual accounts are established for union members, and their employer makes tax-deductible contributions to the fund. Putnam invests the mutual funds.

Any HRA gains are not taxed; even when money is withdrawn in some pre-retirement cases to pay for medical expenses -- co-pays, prescriptions and deductibles.

"Employers are already putting money away for health care and this would give workers a little flexibility," said Howie Kreutzberg, director of services at Boston-based Putnam. "We're trying to come up with ways to offset expenses for retirees."

Unlike a Flexible Spending Account, in which the savings must be used up annually or is lost, HRAs can accrue over years.

About 95 percent of companies plan to cut back on retiree health plans over the next five years and 14 percent plan to stop coverage altogether, according to a survey of 163 major companies that was released Wednesday by benefits consultants Watson Wyatt.

While health savings accounts are spreading in popularity among small businesses and the self-insured, big businesses and workers used to traditional plans have resisted, said Jeff Kubik, president of Employee Benefit Risk Management Services, an Illinois-based benefit firm.

"Employers are really beginning to look at these as the first place to go," Kubik said.

General Motors Corp. retiree Henry Hoisington said his cohorts would be open to finding other ways to pay for medical expenses.

"They're pretty concerned about losing benefits," he said of retirees who are members of the Lansing local, for which he is retiree chairman. "They're open to new things."

You can reach Sharon Terlep at (313)223-4686 or sterlep@detnews.com

State will fund family planning

Kim Kozlowski

The Detroit News

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Television commercials will begin airing next week to let low-income, uninsured women know that the state is beginning to accept enrollment in its \$183 million family planning program.

The intent is to reduce unintended births and Medicaid spending.

"We plan what we're going to wear, we plan what we're going to have for dinner, we even plan what we're going to watch on TV," says one of the two commercials that will air statewide through October. "But thousands of Michigan families each year don't plan on this: becoming pregnant. Shouldn't we plan for our families too?"

How to apply

Call (800) 642-3195. You will receive an application in the mail that is estimated to take two weeks to approve. Recipients will receive a card that will be accepted at any clinic that accepts Medicaid, which includes most family planning clinics.

Some say the state has no business in family planning issues.

"We still express a deep concern for the state to be involved in the expenditure of precious dollars for programs shown to not be always effective in doing what they claim to do," said Paul Long of the Michigan Catholic Conference.

The federal government gave Michigan permission in March to use Medicaid dollars to provide family planning services to 200,000 women ages 19-44. Known as Plan First!, the program will cover all family planning services, with the exception of abortion.

State officials say that it costs them more than \$270 million in Medicaid dollars every year on unplanned births and reducing the load by just 10 percent could save the state more than \$27 million.

If as many women enroll as they expect, Medicaid savings cost reach \$80 million annually. To qualify, women must not have insurance and meet income guidelines.

State begins enrollment on family planning services

Gongwer News Service

June 28, 2006

With federal approval finally in place, the state will begin enrolling low-income women in its Plan First ! family planning program beginning on Saturday.

While the plan goes into effect on July 1, marketing for the program through television spots will not start until July 5.

Governor Jennifer Granholm first announced the program a year ago, but Michigan did not get a federal waiver to allow the program to move forward until March.

Under the proposal, women between the ages of 19 and 44 whose incomes are no more than 185 percent of the federal poverty limit would be eligible for the program. The family planning program will be in tandem with other programs helping provide contraceptive coverage and information for parents to talk to their middle school children about sexuality and abstinence.

Some 200,000 women fall under that eligibility requirement, according to the Department of Community Health, and officials said if Michigan can reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies by 10 percent that alone would save the state some \$27 million in Medicaid expenditures.

GOP moves to vote on controversial issues

June 29, 2006

BY DAVID ESPO

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Story contents edited

WASHINGTON -- House Republicans intend to hold votes this summer and fall touching on abortion, guns, religion and other priority issues for social conservatives, part of an attempt to improve the party's prospects in midterm elections.

It's unclear how many of the bills might clear Congress and reach President George W. Bush, given the controversy many will cause and the relatively short time remaining before the two-year Congress ends.

Democratic congressional leaders unveiled legislation calling for major changes in the new Medicare prescription drug program.

"We will put seniors and people with disabilities first by bringing affordability, simplicity and reliability to the benefit," said Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the House Democratic leader. The proposal would let federal officials negotiate directly with pharmaceutical companies on drug prices, and Democrats said the resulting savings would let the government eliminate a gap in coverage for many beneficiaries.

An abortion-related proposal would require that some women seeking to end their pregnancies be informed the procedure "will cause the unborn child pain" and they have the option of receiving drugs to reduce or eliminate it.

Women's health plan will save state millions

June 29, 2006

BY KIM NORRIS

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

About 200,000 low-income Michigan women will be eligible for family planning services through a new state program called "Plan First!"

Under the program, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) will provide coverage to women ages 19 to 44 who otherwise would not have medical coverage for these services.

The program does not include coverage of abortions or treatment for infertility. It does include educational material, birth control and prenatal and postnatal care. Eighteen other states services.

Enrollment in the plan begins Saturday for all Michigan women living at or below 185% of the federal poverty level who meet Medicaid eligibility.

How to enroll

Plan First! enrollment begins Saturday. Medicaid-eligible Michigan women, ages 19 to 44 whose incomes are 185% of the U.S. poverty level or below are eligible for the program. The poverty level for individuals is \$9,500; it's \$20,000 for a family of four. Eligible women can call 800-642-3195 to enroll.

Source: Michigan Department of Community Health

"Investing in more preventive health care for women will help reduce health care costs statewide," Gov. Jennifer Granholm said in a statement announcing the plan. "We will extend services to women across the state and help reduce infant mortality, child abuse, child neglect, and unintended pregnancies."

Granholm said if Michigan can reduce the number of unintended pregnancies by only 10%, it would save the state more than \$27 million in Medicaid expenditures annually.

Data collected under MDCH's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, which surveys maternal experiences and behaviors before and during a woman's pregnancy, indicated that 40.6% of pregnancies in 2001 were unintended.

"It is estimated that each public dollar spent to provide family planning services saves \$3 that would otherwise be spent in Medicaid costs for pregnancy-related care and medical care for newborns, according to national Medicaid research," MDCH director Janet Olszewski said. "These services provide cost-savings solutions for our Medicaid program, as well as prevent unintended pregnancies."

In addition to the high percentage of unintended pregnancies, infant mortality rates in Michigan are unacceptably high, compounded by the wide disparity between African American and Caucasian infant deaths.

MDCH will launch a statewide advertising campaign on July 5.

Contact **KIM NORRIS** at 248-351-5186 or norris@freepress.com

DCH Announces Plan First! Enrollment

MIRS

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

The Department of Community Health today announced that enrollment for the state's new Plan First program is set to begin July 1 and will expand health services to an expected 200,000 more women.

"Investing in more preventative health care for women will help reduce health care costs statewide," said Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM**. "Through this innovative program, we will extend services to women across the state and help reduce infant mortality, child abuse, child neglect and unintended pregnancies."

Plan First! is a program through which the Department of Community Health will provide women ages 19 to 44 who lack health care coverage family planning services. The creation of the program came when the federal government approved the governor's request for a Medicaid waiver to fund the program in March. Michigan will kick off its official Plan First! marketing campaign on July 5, when television commercials debut throughout the state.

According to Department of Community Health Director Janet **OLSZEWSKI**, 200,000 women at or below 185 percent of poverty reside in Michigan and meet Medicaid eligibility and will be able to benefit from the state-provided family planning services.

Woman to stand trial in baby death case

By: Ray Kisonas

June 28, 2006

Monroe Evening News

A judge this afternoon ordered a Monroe woman accused of brutally beating a toddler to death to stand trial for murder.

First District Judge Terrence Bronson was convinced a homicide had occurred and there was evidence that Sonya Moussaed, 27, was involved in the April 20 death of 17-month-old Gracie A. Simmons.

During the two-hour hearing this afternoon, Monroe County Assistant Prosecutor Allison Arnold called six witnesses, including Gracie's father, Joe Simmons. The accused, Mr. Simmons' former live-in girlfriend, sat in a black-and-white jail uniform and showed little emotion during the proceeding.

Monroe County Medical Examiner Dr. Carl Schmidt testified that the toddler suffered a severe beating that included her head being slammed against a hard object seven times, causing a skull fracture and brain injuries.

Dr. Schmidt said on the stand that the toddler also was slapped several times so hard that she bit her tongue deeply and caused tearing on in the inside of the mouth. The child suffered numerous other injuries, including bruising to her back and neck and a burn to her ankle that appeared to be caused by a cigarette.

"I believe this child was thrown several times against a hard surface," Dr. Schmidt testified. "A fall down the stairs is not what happened."

During Dr. Schmidt's graphic testimony regarding the beating and the ensuing autopsy, several people in the audience wept.

Gracie and Ms. Moussaed's son, J.J., were in her care while Mr. Simmons worked the midnight shift. They lived on Hubble St. Mr. Simmons testified that he came home early that morning and went to bed after working 12 hours.

About two hours later, Ms. Moussaed brought an unconscious Gracie to him.

"She was limp and pale," Mr. Simmons said quietly on the stand, his lower lip quivering.

A Monroe Police detective testified that Ms. Moussaed was interviewed several times and gave conflicting stories.

Detective Bryan Gee testified that, in one of the interviews, Ms. Moussaed told a Michigan State Police sergeant that on the night of the baby's death she drank Oberon beer and Goldschlager liqueur.

"I was pretty buzzed," Detective Gee quoted her as saying.

Detective Gee said on the stand that Ms. Moussaed stated the baby tripped over some construction equipment and fell earlier that day and hurt her lip. Ms. Moussaed said that, later that night, she was carrying Gracie up the stairs and dropped her down the stairs.

Ms. Moussaed is being defended by Monroe attorney Lawrence Coogan. He did not call any witnesses. Mr. Coogan tried to discuss the issue of bond, but Judge Bronson cut him short.

"You want me to address bond? Forget it," Judge Bronson said.

Ms. Moussaed was sent back to the county jail. Her next court date is July 14, when she will be arraigned in Monroe County Circuit Court.

Predator may be on kids' 'buddy' lists

LAPEER COUNTY

THE FLINT JOURNAL Thursday, June 29, 2006

By Bryn Mickle

State investigators want parents to check their children's online "buddy" lists to see if they have had contact with a suspected Internet sex predator.

Ryan J. Pickard, 26, of Lapeer was arrested Tuesday on seven counts of using a computer to accost and solicit a minor for immoral purposes, a 10-year felony.

Pickard's screen names include "imhung_shaved," officials said.

Anyone who believes their child may have had contact with Pickard is asked to call the state attorney general's office at (313) 456-0180.

Pickard also is charged with using a computer to disseminate sexually explicit matter to minors, a 4-year felony.

He is scheduled for a July 11 hearing in Lansing's 54-A District Court.

Incestuous father gets 8-20 years in prison

Current wife, children maintain he is innocent, that girls concocted stories

By Jameson Cook

Macomb Daily Staff Writer

PUBLISHED: June 29, 2006

A 40-year-old Armada man will spend at least eight years in prison for having sex multiple times with his teenage daughter.

Macomb Circuit Judge Tracey Yokich gave Richard Dean Hensley a minimum term of eight years -- after which he becomes eligible for parole -- and a maximum term of 20 years. The minimum term falls at the midpoint of the recommended penalty of 81 months to 135 months, based on state sentencing guidelines.

A jury convicted Hensley on May 19 of three counts each of first- and second-degree criminal sexual conduct, and three counts of third-degree CSC for the offenses that occurred over a period of about two years ending in early 2005 in Armada and St. Clair Shores homes.

The case rocked small-town Armada, with virtually all of Hensley's family, including his current wife and children, supporting him and accusing the victim and her female friend of concocting the incest allegations. The victim has had no contact with her family since late April 2005 when the accusations first began to arise.

The hearing included emotional statements from the victim and a supporter of Hensley. "I hope this (the sentence) hurts him as much as he hurt me," the victim, now 18, told the judge before being led away in tears. "He has hurt so many more people than just me."

The victim's mother, Hensley's ex-wife, assailed Hensley's character, telling him: "I hope a day doesn't go by that you don't think of the hell you have put that little girl through. I hope you rot in hell. No father should look at his daughter and think of his own flesh. You perversely used and abused her for your own twisted desires."

Hensley denied on the witness stand he committed the acts, but did not make a statement at the sentencing hearing.

"There should be no remorse in a case where it didn't happen," said his attorney, James Thomas. Hensley's cousin, Jennifer Minella, pleaded with the judge for leniency and asked the victim to recant.

"I'm begging (the victim) to come forward one day and be honest," Minella said. "Come back to us. I'll help you through it."

She said Hensley and his current wife, Sue Ann, helped her and her family in a crisis in the 1990s.

"We love him; we know he is innocent," Minella said.

Yokich asked Minella to not "relitigate the case."

Assistant Macomb prosecutor Jodi Debbrecht noted the jury's steadfast conclusions.

"We had an objective group of 12 people who found that he did this," Debbrecht said. "The jury said that at no time did they believe him."

Debbrecht said she has been surprised by the amount of support Hensley has received.

"I think it's a part of coping," she said.

Debbrecht said she would liked to have seen a longer sentence and may appeal some sentencing guideline determinations. She asked the judge to exceed guidelines and give Hensley a minimum of 30 years, up to life.

"This lady has been given a life sentence by her own father," Debbrecht told the judge. "These are significant, significant crimes. It's the most extreme humiliation."

Debbrecht said the victim will require a lifetime of rehabilitation and therapy.

An 18-year-old female friend of the victim who resided at the Hensley home for three months in early 2005 testified during the trial she was raped by Hensley. Debbrecht said the Macomb prosecutor's office may still seek charges against him for that alleged offense.

Boy who killed father pleads guilty, could serve time until age 21

Thursday, June 29, 2006

By ERIC ENGLISH

BAY CITY TIMES

HARRISVILLE - A 13-year-old Glennie boy pleaded guilty Wednesday to a charge of voluntary manslaughter, admitting that he shot his father to death in January after the two had argued the night before.

Alcona County Prosecutor Thomas Weichel said he felt the boy's actions stemmed from an abusive family environment. The boy was age 12 at the time of the Jan. 31 shooting of 46-year-old Mark A. Link.

"It's a community tragedy that a 12-year-old feels the only way out of a situation is to take the life of another individual," Weichel said. "I feel it's a failure of the community and society as a whole."

The boy was charged as a juvenile and faces sentencing in Alcona County Family Court. He could receive a maximum penalty of serving time in a secure detention center until the age of 21. The Times is withholding the youth's name because he is in the juvenile justice system.

At the time of the shooting, he was living with Link at a home in Curtis Township, located in southwest Alcona County. He attended classes as a seventh-grader in the Oscoda Area Schools. The boy's half-brother, 29-year-old Christopher Link of Mikado, said Wednesday he wasn't sure how to feel about the outcome of the case. He expressed mixed emotions.

"I don't want to see my brother fry, but he needs to be punished and he needs some help," Link said.

Harrisville defense attorney Laura Frawley, who represented the boy, said the plea agreement gives him a chance to make a new start.

"This is an opportunity for him to get some counseling, finish up school and get some life skills," Frawley said.

Frawley said the boy is still emotional about the death of his father and still loves him.

Relatives of Mark A. Link, including his son Christopher, dispute claims that Link abused the boy, other than yelling at him.

But both Weichel and Frawley say they believe there was a history of abuse by his parents.

"In my view, there was enough adequate provocation to support a charge of voluntary manslaughter," Weichel said.

And as recently as May, a court hearing was held to change the boy's temporary placement with his mother and maternal grandmother due to family turmoil that had resulted in several police calls to the home.

Alcona Probate Judge James Cook ordered the boy to live with his grandmother in an apartment until the case was decided. After accepting the boy's guilty plea on Wednesday, the youth was ordered to a secure detention center in Midland to await sentencing on July 27.

In exchange for pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter, Weichel said he would dismiss a second charge of using a firearm to commit a felony.

"This was a difficult decision,' to accept a plea bargain, Weichel said. 'When you take the life of another human being ... and this was his father.'"

- Eric English covers regional news for The Times. He can be reached at 1-800-727-7661 or by e-mail at eenglish@bc-times.com.

Deal possible in Internet sex photo case

Thursday, June 29, 2006

By Ed White

The Grand Rapids Press

ALLEGAN -- A tentative deal has been reached in the case of a young Wayland man charged with taking pictures of two teenage classmates having sex and posting at least one image on the Internet, his attorney said.

The Allegan County case highlighted the serious consequences of what gets posted on Web sites popular among teens. It also had some strange turns: A police officer briefly was suspended for how he handled the investigation.

Ryan Zylstra, a 2006 graduate of Wayland High School, is accused of three felonies linked to digital photos taken at his New Year's Eve party.

The sex between a 16-year-old girl and 17-year-old boy was consensual, but the photos apparently were not. Because of the girl's age, county authorities said the pictures justified charges of creating child sexually abusive material.

But after looking at the pictures, Zylstra's attorneys claim it's "not readily apparent" what the teens were doing. The only exposed body part is the young man's buttocks, and the girl is not identifiable, the lawyers said.

"The photos taken in this instance record no crime," Henry Emrich and Courtney Flanagan said in asking a judge to dismiss the case.

While that request is pending, "we have a tentative agreement to resolve the matter" with a plea bargain in a few weeks, Flanagan said Wednesday. "It's not a manufacturing pornography charge."

A felony charge of improper surveillance, is "one of the options," she said. "It would possibly allow for probation, but the ultimate (sentencing) decision is up to the court."

Assistant Prosecutor Margaret Bakker did not respond to requests for comment.

Wayland Officer Mark Rookus was suspended for three days in March. His initial report incorrectly said the photos were passed around Wayland High School after Christmas break.

Send e-mail to the author: ewhite@grpress.com

Couple who sheltered foster kids to lead parade

Thursday, June 29, 2006

By Janet Meana

The Grand Rapids Press

ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP -- It's not the first time Bob Sheridan will be in Allendale Township's July Fourth parade.

But it will be the first time he leads the procession as its grand marshal.

"I can't believe it," he said.

It's a privilege he will share with his wife, Betty.

"We do feel extremely honored but unworthy," she said.

The parade starts at 10 a.m. July 4 on the campus of Grand Valley State University.

The couple owe the honor, in part, to their daughter, Kathi Alderink, who nominated them. "He's qualified for it," Alderink said of her dad.

Alderink said Bob Sheridan is a military veteran and retired postal worker who served the Allendale community for 30 years. Also, her parents took in foster children, went on mission trips and are active in St. John's Lutheran Church.

Alderink said her father went to the post office every Christmas morning to see if any overnight packages had arrived. Only after he delivered the last-minute presents did he go home to spend the day with his family.

For almost 35 years, Sheridan was the rural mail carrier for Allendale, using his own car. He said he went through eight Ford Falcons during his career. Sheridan retired in 1988.

Betty Sheridan said their foster children mainly were newborns. Altogether, they took in more than 50 foster children.

One of the foster kids became Alderink's brother, and another became a sister-in-law.

While Bob Sheridan jokes his son married his daughter and he had to pay for both the wedding and rehearsal dinner, it was a biological son who married a foster daughter.

The couple have six children, 19 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Community Promotions Director Kathy Hanes said a couple of people suggested Betty share the honor of grand marshal with Bob because he couldn't have accomplished all he did without her. "It seems fitting to have couples," Hanes said.

The Sheridans will not be the only Sheridans in the parade's lead car. Bob's brother, Don Sheridan, supplies and drives the convertible the grand marshals rides in.

Typically, Bob Sheridan rides the veterans' float, having served in the Army's 11th Airborne Division during World War II.

Judge hears paternity case, to rule later

Thursday, June 29, 2006

DARRYL Q. TUCKER

THE SAGINAW NEWS

BAY CITY -- A state attorney says a Saginaw Township man's lawsuit is "frivolous" and the man has an obligation to financially support his daughter.

Assistant Attorney General Joel D. McGormley argued Wednesday during a hearing before U.S. District Judge David M. Lawson in Bay City that by law, Matt Dubay cannot avoid child support just because he didn't want to become a father.

Dubay, 25, is a computer technician. His former girlfriend, Lauren Wells, is the mother of Dubay's daughter, Elisabeth.

McGormley asked Lawson to dismiss Dubay's lawsuit -- known as Roe v. Wade for Men -- that claims Michigan's paternity law is unconstitutional.

Lawson said he will take the case under advisement and issue a ruling later. He did not say when. "There is no claim here," McGormley said.

If unwed fathers say they don't want a child or if the mother says she can't get pregnant but does and the father walks away, then "the state and the mother are left to support the child," he said. Dubay has said that Wells knew he didn't want to have a child and that she assured him repeatedly she could not get pregnant because of a medical condition.

Dubay's attorney, Jeffery A. Cojocar, argued that it's a question of due process. "(The paternity law) violates equal protection and is discriminatory," Cojocar said.

Females have a right to opt out of a pregnancy if they want, he said. Males should have a right to opt out of "forced parenting," he said.

"Females have a choice that men do not have," Cojocar said.

After the hearing, Cojocar said Lawson did his homework on paternity law. Cojocar said he believes the case will continue.

"We will get a sound and informed opinion from him," he said.

Nate Bailey, a spokesman for the attorney general, agreed that Lawson is well versed on the case. "We're cautiously optimistic that he will rule in our favor and for the children of Michigan," Bailey said.

Saginaw County Prosecutor Michael D. Thomas and Wells are defendants in the case. Saginaw County Probate Judge Patrick J. McGraw in February ordered Dubay to pay \$500 in monthly child support to Wells and their daughter. Court files show that Dubay acknowledged paternity Aug. 24.

Darryl Q. Tucker covers courts for The Saginaw News. You may reach him at 776-9686.

Felons keep school jobs

Many of the 469 employees with records are being given second chance by districts

Marisa Schultz, Doug Guthrie and Shawn D. Lewis

The Detroit News

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Michigan schools employ 469 workers convicted of such felonies as assaulting police officers, dealing drugs, setting fires and stealing property, according to a report released to The Detroit News on Wednesday.

In many cases, the school districts -- made aware of the convictions -- say they can keep their jobs. Four workers convicted of sex offenses have been fired, as required by state law, since the districts learned of their records.

Overall, the list of felons raises concerns about how well school districts applied background checks, whether the system caught employees with felonies and how districts would know whether employees committed crimes after hiring.

In a 43-page document, the criminal histories of 469 Michigan school employees who have committed more than 600 felonies were turned over to The News after months of legal controversy over whether the results of a Michigan State Police background check of all school personnel should be released.

Its release has forced school administrators to make tough decisions: fire the known felons to keep kids away from criminals or allow the ex-cons who are good employees to stay on the job. "We have to remember in this society that we believe in redemption and that educators come under that umbrella as well," said Margaret Trimer-Hartley, spokeswoman for the Michigan Education Association, a teachers' union. "For those who have done their time and paid the price for their mistakes, we hope their employers will recognize their work as employees and not just the mistake they made."

And so far, redemption seems to be winning out in many districts across Metro Detroit. Brighton Area Schools and Fowlerville Community Schools each decided to keep a janitor with a rap sheet. Waterford School District also kept two maintenance workers: Christopher Gault, who has a 2002 felony for assaulting a police officer, and John Kennedy, who had a 1992 felony for carrying a concealed weapon.

"The offenses happened a while ago and the board felt they would not adversely affect their employment," said Rhonda Lessel, spokeswoman for the Waterford district. "If anything happens in the future with them, we will look at it again at that time."

Others who will return to teach in the fall: Livonia social science teacher Thaddeus Rogowski, who was convicted of felony false pretenses over \$100 and felony eavesdropping in 1992, and Kevin LaPlante, an English teacher at Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, who has a 2001 felony third offense drunken driving conviction.

Willie Trice remains a fifth-grade teacher at George Washington Carver Academy in Highland Park despite his 1985 conviction on a drug possession charge.

"This happened over 20 years ago," said Marcie A. Wade, chief administrative officer at the charter school. She said Trice included the conviction on his application to become a teacher at the school more than three years ago.

"So many people, when people fill out an application, they lie. Willie didn't lie. It was something that happened in his youth and he is a man now," Wade said. "Somebody in the suburbs might not need to know that people need second chances, but running a school in the inner city, we need to send that message."

Honesty has been a key factor during decision making.

The convictions have come as a shock to several school districts, including Garden City Schools. Two janitors there have felonies, one for receiving and concealing stolen property and the other for attempted escape or aiding a prisoner.

Gary Murrell, interim associate superintendent, is still determining their fate.

One of the men failed to include his conviction on his job application before being hired. The other failed to notify the district of his conviction while an employee. Both are violations of district policy.

At Pontiac Public Schools, background checks revealed 22 felons working in the schools -- the most of any district in Oakland County. Among the employees: a cafeteria worker who committed vehicular manslaughter in 1992; a security guard who was convicted in 2002 of dealing drugs; and a science teacher with a 1994 larceny conviction.

Under new state laws, felons can stay on with the written permission of the superintendent and school board. Pontiac leaders wanted to let everyone stay, but the cafeteria worker retired and another food service worker with a 1997 marijuana conviction did, too. And an office worker with false pretense felonies "was just laid off because of budget crunches," said Elick Shorter, human resources consultant. "We felt they already had done the time and there was no reason to hold double jeopardy."

The state police conducted the criminal history check based on school employee data provided by the Department of Education.

The state police stand by the accuracy of the latest count, but two districts -- Clintondale and Dearborn -- said an employee in each place was listed inaccurately.

Under new laws designed to protect kids from sexual predators, the police will run background checks twice a year on Michigan school employees until July 2008. Then a new digital fingerprint system will alert police in real time when a school employee is arrested.

Prompted by a Detroit News investigation last April into abusive educators, the new state laws bar sex offenders from working in schools. The background check revealed four employees with felony sex convictions: one maintenance worker in Hudsonville Public Schools who is also a student there; a longtime janitor in Ypsilanti; and two Detroit Public School teachers. All are no longer employed, according to district officials.

"He was an outstanding, exemplary employee," James Hawkins, superintendent of Ypsilanti School District, said of the longtime janitor with a 1977 criminal sexual conduct conviction who he was forced to fire. "If I had my choice, I would hire him back tomorrow."

Detroit Public Schools took up 10 pages of the 43-page list. Aside from the two sex offenders, the school district has not fired anyone because they are still reviewing the list.

As for the rest of the felons listed, David Turner, interim head of the district's human resources department, said his department is still verifying that names are in fact district employees, adding that the state has made errors before.

"Whatever the number turns out to be -- whether it's 1 to 100 -- the individuals that don't have the listed convictions as part of their record, those are the ones whose dispositions will be sought from the superintendent and the board," he said.

"But that can't occur until the list is completely researched for its validity as prescribed and recommended by the state."

In all, most of the employees listed are janitors and cafeteria workers, who up until this year were not required to have a background check upon hiring. However, 56 teachers made the list. Teachers have been subject to background checks since 1993.

Michael Renaud, 26, was convicted of drunken driving in 2002, just before he was hired as a paraprofessional at Gaudior Academy in Inkster.

Rose Marie Gonzales, director of the charter school said Renaud had come from another district's after-school program and never hid his legal problems from her. She decided to keep Renaud.

"He has a lot to offer. Just like we give every child a chance to turn around, we do the same for adults," Gonzales said.

"He has proven to be a great asset to the team."

Gonzales said Renaud is a good influence in the classroom and is contemplating going back to school to get a teaching certificate. Renaud said he would like to become an art teacher.

"I hope this doesn't stand in the way of my doing that. Being supported and recognized by my employer means everything, but I hope it's enough," Renaud said. "As long as the law doesn't eventually say you're done if you have a conviction. Hopefully it doesn't go that far."

Detroit News Staff Writers Catherine Jun, Darren Nichols, Candice Williams and Charles E. Ramirez contributed to this report. You can reach Marisa Schultz at (313) 222-2310 or mschultz@detnews.com

Convicted felons in Mich. schools

Thursday, June 29, 2006

The Detroit News

Academy of Flint

Steven Keranen, music teacher, 1992 motor vehicle-conceal/misrepresent with intent to mislead

Academy of Oak Park

Charlotte Jackson, business teacher, 1984 larceny; 1987 receive/conceal stolen property

Caroline Lane, maintenance, 1997 welfare fraud

Curtis Knox, security guard, 1989 carrying concealed weapons

Allen Academy

Tina Peyton, food service worker, 1986 concealed weapons

Richard Sheldon, maintenance, 1989 assault; armed robbery

Alma Public Schools

Henry Farr, maintenance, 1991 breaking and entering

Anchor Bay School District

Stephen Weaver, maintenance, 1979 larceny

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Aide/paraprofessional

Christopher Banks, 2004 drunken driving; ; 2000 drunken driving

Natasha Smith, 1999 attempt controlled substance

Bus driver

Deana Jefferson, 1994 welfare fraud

Mark McClain, 2002 dealing/manufacturing drugs

Maintenance

Mary Burt, 2001 larceny

Sheldon Gates, 1989 bad checks

Janet Jones, 1977 larceny

Deborah Morris, secretary, 1989 welfare fraud

Armada Area Schools

Diane Stringer, food service worker, 1976 larceny

Baldwin Community Schools

Rodney Tenhave, maintenance, 1988 attempt unlawful driving away

Battle Creek Public Schools

Andrew Swift, bus driver, 1975 larceny

Marion Barroso, maintenance, 1973 larceny

Bay City School District

Maintenance

Warren Meyers, 2000 fleeing officer

Thomas Ouellette, 1995 stalking; larceny

Kevin Schmidt, 1984 receive/conceal stolen property

Beecher Community School District

Mario Perez, food service worker, 1991 dealing/manufacturing drugs

Donnie Odom, physical education, 1979 forgery

Bendle Public Schools

Daniel Bostwick, aide/paraprofessional, 1980 attempt kidnapping

Nancy Parks, secretary, 1988 attempt larceny

Jeffrey Phegley, social studies, 1989 carrying concealed weapons

Benton Harbor Area Schools

Charlotte Childs, aide/paraprofessional, 1971 bad checks

Louis James, bus driver, 1988 breaking and entering

Linda Williams, bus monitor, 1984 welfare fraud

Food service worker

Mary Keller, 1997 welfare fraud

Antonio Vinson, 1992 possession of drugs; subsequent offense

Pat Jones, maintenance, 1996 assault

Secretary

Brenda Butler, 1973 larceny

Dorothy Randolph, 1970 larceny

Thomas McKeller, security guard, 1981 carrying concealed weapons

Calvin Davenport, social studies, 1978 assault

Berkley School District

Day care

Louie Awdish, three counts of stealing/retaining financial device; 2006 larceny

Jacqueline Jones, 1995 welfare fraud

Birmingham City School District

Darrell Davenport, aide/paraprofessional, 2001 dealing/manufacturing drugs; insurance fraud;
1998 false police report

Linda Johnson, bus driver, 1995 bad checks

Jonathan Walker, maintenance, 1997 dealing/manufacturing drugs; 1992 assault

Roxann Lockhart, secretary, 1991 drunken driving 3rd offense

Blanche Kelso Bruce Academy

Aide/paraprofessional

John Evans, 1985 dealing/manufacturing drugs

Andre Williams, 1995 attempt false pretenses over \$100

Bloomfield Hills School District

Cheryl Miller, bus driver/food service worker, 1994 receive/conceal stolen property

Mary Knight, maintenance, 1988 larceny; 1987 larceny

Bloomington Public School District

Cathy Jager, food service worker, 1989 forgery

Brighton Area Schools

Donald Moll, maintenance, 1974 attempt forgery

Business Entrepreneurship, Science, Tech. Academy

Jevon Taylor, security guard, 1984 carrying concealed weapon

Cadillac Area Public Schools

Vaughn Brigham, computer technician, 1992 assault

Casa Richard Academy

Angela Johnson, mathematics, 1993 armed robbery

Chandler Park Academy

Brian Banks, aide/paraprofessional, 1999 three counts illegal financial transactions; 1999 bad checks

Rena Lampkin, clerk, 1990 welfare fraud

Cherry Hill School of Performing Arts

Malik McAdoo, security guard, 1994 carrying concealed weapons
Chippewa Hills School District
Terri Spaugh, bus driver/food service, 1988 welfare fraud
Clarkston Community School District
Phyllis Flores, bus driver, 1985 perjury
Clintondale Community Schools
**Gleo Wade, physical education, 1992 two counts drug possession
Clio Area School District
Jeffrey Phegley, alternative education, 1989 carrying concealed weapons
Coldwater Community Schools
Charles Richards, maintenance, 1975 attempt receive/conceal stolen property
Colin Powell Academy
Tijuan Tidwell, food service worker, 1996 receive/conceal stolen property; 1990 unlawful driving away a motor vehicle; fleeing police officer
Commonwealth Community Devel. Academy
Gregory Maples, maintenance, 1977 carrying concealed weapons; 1979 armed robbery; 1978 carrying concealed weapons; 1988 two counts breaking and entering
Comstock Public Schools
Michael McKinley, physical education, 1990 possession of drugs
Coopersville Public School District
April Stratton, aide/paraprofessional, 1993 stealing/retaining financial device
Covenant House Life Skills Center East
Cassandra Wallace, clerk, 1999 welfare fraud
Covert Public Schools
Sean Harris, aide/paraprofessional, 1994 carrying concealed weapons
Kenneth Taylor, cook/food preparer, 1991 assault
Dearborn City School District

Maintenance

Pete Diroff, 2005 dealing/manufacturing drugs

**Shirley Holden, 1977 assault

Detroit City School District

Aide/Paraprofessional, Career and Technical Education

Johnnie Hampton, 1988 carrying concealed weapons; 1985 carrying concealed weapons

Jerry Roach, 1971 carrying concealed weapons

Aide/Paraprofessional, Instructional (not including Special Education)

Jeline Benbow, 1999 bad checks; 1997 bad checks

Lisa Bradley, 1997 welfare fraud

Erica Broaden, 1997 embezzlement

Eva Conley, 1980 assault

Louise Foster, 1988 fraud

Brendaettie Henry, 1992 carrying concealed weapon

Deborah Hill, 1992 carrying concealed weapon

Wanda Jackson, 1997 welfare fraud

Kecia Lewis, using financial transaction device to overcharge; 1983 stealing/taking credit cards

LaTonya Moore, false report of a felony; 2000 embezzlement

Carmen Smith, 1996 welfare fraud

Nancy Stanley, 2000 welfare fraud
Peggy Stubblefield, 1986 welfare fraud
Carol Thomas, 1990 receive/conceal stolen property, habitual offender
Shirley Tolliver, 1985 welfare fraud
Lizzie Tremble, 1985 welfare fraud
Sammira Tyner, 1989 bad checks; 1993 unlawful driving away

Aide/Paraprofessional, Special Education, Mandated

Bruce Bazile, 1986 assault
Curtis Clements, 1977 armed robbery; 1974 assault with intent to rob
Veronica Cook, 1999 carrying concealed weapons; 1992 stealing/retaining financial device
Bessander Givens, 2005 welfare fraud
Cary Hall, 1985 larceny
Kelvin Sheppard, 1995 two counts illegal sale/use financial transaction device
Christine Simmons, 1985 attempt larceny
Rosie Wallace, 1985 welfare fraud

Bus Driver

Ronald Agurs, 2005 possession of firearms by felon; 1998 carrying concealed weapons
Rodriquez Arrington, 1992 dealing/manufacturing drugs
Tommy Beck, 1977 carrying concealed weapons; 1968 larceny
Dinah Betty, 1988 attempt bad checks; 1989 escape prison; 1998 possession of drugs
Terry Byrd, 1993 embezzlement
Jerome Childs, 1980 unlawful driving away; 1984 drug possession
Sharon Eggleston, habitual offender second offense
Sarah Hall, 1999 bad checks
Veronica Johnson, 2005 assault
Ramone Myatt, 1998 assault; 1998 received/concealed stolen property
LaMonica Robinson, 1993 embezzlement; possession of financial device
Warner Washington, 1976 larceny

Bus Monitor

Fannie Dawson, 1999 welfare fraud
Johnnie Edwards, 2004 carrying concealed weapons
Timothy Johnson, assault; 1979 receive/conceal stolen property
Yulanda Mitchell, 2002 welfare fraud; 1996 larceny
Darnella Nunn, 2005 false pretenses -
Kim Simpson, 2006 drug possession
Cornelius Weathington, 1975 armed robbery

Business Education

Judi Dent, 1981 stealing/taking credit cards

Cook Manager

Eartha Willis, 1999 welfare fraud

Cook/Food Preparer

Louis Silva, 1977 carrying concealed weapons

English

Anthony Mosby, 2000 drunk-driving 3rd-offense notice; 1992 bad checks

Food Service Worker

Troia Addison, 1999 assault

Tracey Allen, 1999 welfare fraud
Anita Atkins, 1986 assault
Lakeita Benson, 1984 larceny
Mae Brown, 1995 assault
Gwendolyn Campbell, 2001 welfare fraud
Herbert Carey, 1999 drug possession; 1961 unarmed robbery
Kawana Carr, 2004 possession of financial device
Cheryl Carter, 1984 carrying concealed weapons
Brenda Cleveland, 1994 bad checks; habitual offender second offense
Cherise Cottrell, 2004 insurance fraud; false report of a felony
Marlene Cox, 2002 drunken driving 3rd offense
Robert Curry, 1981 breaking and entering; 1980 receive/conceal stolen property; 2001 carrying concealed weapons
Linda Dixon, 1998 assault
Jacquelyn Donald, 1993 welfare fraud
Maurice Dudley, assault; 1992 breaking and entering
Serena Edwards, 1997 bad checks
Deborah Ellis, 2002 bad checks
Betty Freeman, 1996 welfare fraud
Michelle Frost, 1997 welfare fraud
Marshantie Fulton, 1998 possession of drugs; 2005 dealing/manufacturing drugs
Etta Givhan, 2005 welfare fraud
Raul Gonzalez, 2000 possession of drugs
Dora Greer, 2000 welfare fraud
Tyteashen Hadley, 2000 stealing/retaining financial device
Twana Hagood, 2005 avoiding payment greater than \$1,000 less than \$20,000
Terence Hall, 1988 unarmed robbery
Edward Harvel, 1983 larceny; breaking and entering
Gloria Helms, 1995 welfare fraud
Ramona Hulbert, 1999 welfare fraud
Grace Hunter, 2003 bad checks
LaTonya Hunter, 2005 bad checks
Anthony Hutcherson, 1997 armed robbery
Ora Jackson, 1996 welfare fraud
LaQuan James, 1989 receive/conceal stolen property
Dennis Jarrett, 1979 receive/conceal stolen property
Monnise Jennings, 1999 welfare fraud
William Johnson, 1980 attempt larceny; 1982 armed robbery; drug possession; 1988 concealed weapons; forfeiting
Betty Johnson, 2001 stealing/retaining financial device; 2002 attempt larceny
David Johnson, 1983 carrying concealed weapons
Ricardo Johnson, 1999, delivering/manufacturing drugs
Calvin Legette, 1998 larceny
Yvonne Ludy, 2004 receive/conceal stolen property; 1999 welfare fraud
Mitchell Lyons, 2002 carrying concealed weapons
Sega Mahan, 1989 drug possession

Monique Mason, 2000 retail fraud
Aaron McCrary, 1994 armed robbery
Vaddie Miller, 1992 carrying concealed weapons
Von Miller, 1999 carrying concealed weapons
Sabina Munoz, 2001 welfare fraud
Renee Nicholson, 1995 carrying concealed weapons
John Parker, 1994 forgery license documents/plates
Louise Patty, 1992 welfare fraud
Ronald Penix, 1985 receive/conceal stolen property
Natasha Perry, 1999 false pretenses
Rose Perry, 1997 welfare fraud
Tonja Powell, 1988 carrying concealed weapons
Anthony Prude, 1990 deliver/manufacturing drugs; 1990 drug possession
Cecilia Randall, 1995 welfare fraud
Jacqueline Reddick, 1993 stealing/retaining financial device
Alonzo Robinson, 1995 receive/conceal stolen property
Darlene Ross, 1989 deliver/manufacturing drugs
Shirley Ruffin, 1988 deliver/manufacturing drugs
Edith Scott, 1986 welfare fraud
Terrence Sims, 1991 drug possession
Brenda Smith, 2002 unarmed robbery
Christopher Spivey, 1997 deliver/manufacturing drugs; 2000 drug possession
Sharon Stewart, 1983 drug possession
Troy Tatum, 2000 embezzlement; 2003 larceny
Audrenia Thomas, 2001 welfare fraud
Lisa Thomas, 1991 carrying concealed weapon; 1993 welfare fraud
Dwayne Tims, 2003 carrying concealed weapons and firearms possession by felon; 1992 carrying concealed weapons
Nancy Toson, 1986 welfare fraud
Dolores Walker, 1992 welfare fraud
Margaret White, 2000 welfare fraud; 1991 drug possession
Glen Williams, 1996 drug possession
Marquetta Williams, 2003 retail fraud
General EL K-5 all, K-8 self-contained
Lawanda Gray, 1984 welfare fraud
Maxie McCauley, 2005 fleeing police officer
Tommie Spiller, 1982 welfare fraud
Maintenance
Michael Anderson, 2004 carrying concealed weapons
Sheila Bibb, 1995 welfare fraud
Kevin Bradford, 1991 bad checks
Willie Calhoun, 1994 deliver/manufacturing drugs
Claude Crapps, 1989 drug possession
Maurice Estell, 1987 carrying concealed weapons; 1991 carrying concealed weapons
Gregory Foster, 2000 deliver/manufacturing drugs
James Frazier, 1997 carrying concealed weapons

Deidrea Gresham, 1996 welfare fraud
Etta Hardy, 1988 larceny
Wayne Huff, 1992 embezzlement
Gregory Jackson, 1995 drug possession
Mary Johnson, 1992 welfare fraud
Mitchell Johnson, 1983 receive/conceal stolen property; 1986 receive/conceal stolen property;
1977 receive/conceal stolen property
Beau Jones, 1993 carrying concealed weapon
Dan McFall, 2004 assault
Eddie Peake, 1975 carrying concealed weapon
Doretha Price, 1993 welfare fraud
Marvin Sibert, 1996 carrying concealed weapon
Leona Smith, 1998 welfare fraud; 2002 embezzlement
Malissa Smith, 2005 controlled substance possession analogues
Donna Tinsley, 1989 bad checks; 1997 bad checks

Mathematics

Cicero Bynum, 1991 criminal sexual conduct second degree person under 13
Kimberly Perkins, 1995 four counts bad checks
Angela Smith, 2002 drunk driving subsequent offense
Jason White, 1994 illegal sale/use financial transaction device; 1999 drunk driving 3rd offense

Music Education

Byron Hubbard, 1975 larceny

Physical Education

Charles McCullough, unarmed robbery, 1982 CSC with intent to commit sexual penetration
Garry Porter, 1997 attempt carrying concealed weapon

Science

Mark Stephenson, 2003, drunk driving 3rd offense

Secretary (Office/Clerical/Administrative Support)

Donna Baker, 1995 welfare fraud
Stephanie Carreker, 2001 welfare fraud
Michelle Chenault, 1996 welfare fraud
Lisa Davis, 1988 forgery; 1991, welfare fraud
Kathy Griffin, 1990 receive/conceal stolen property
Suzanne Hart, 2001 assault
Elaina Jackson, 1992 bad checks-false statement of identity; 1991 forgery; 1990 attempt to write
bad checks; 1991 bad checks
Cathy Long, 1999 welfare fraud
Torra Wilson, 1992 welfare fraud

Skilled Worker

Aaron Daniel, 1980 attempt breaking and entering
Shawn Davis, 1991, 1993 attempt carrying concealed weapon
Roderick Foster, felonious driving
Cordell Hall, 2002 carrying concealed weapons
Robert McGee, 1986 carrying concealed weapons; 1988 intent to pass false vehicle title;
receive/conceal stolen property
James Oman, 2003 home invasion

Raymond Sykes, 1984 receive/conceal stolen property
 Julius Ward, 1984 larceny; 1972 attempt larceny; 1973 larceny; 1991 habitual offender
 Christopher Zielke, 1980 attempt larceny
 Detroit Community High School
 Riley Singleton, security guard, 2002 attempt publishing counterfeit bills or notes
 Detroit Merit Charter Academy
 Pamela Hammonds, aide/paraprofessional, 2004 embezzlement
 East Detroit Public Schools
 Danny Pollet, skilled worker, 1969 larceny
 Edison-Oakland Public School Academy
 Cornell Roberts, food service worker, 1993 assault; 1993 carrying concealed weapons; habitual offender
 Escanaba Area Public Schools
 Kathy Miron, music education, 2000 drunken driving 3rd offense
 Farmington Public School District
 Jerry Sanney, maintenance, 1994 malicious destruction of building
 Ferndale Public Schools
 Henry Slay, maintenance, 2002 drunken driving 3rd offense
 Darrius McCary, security guard, 1990 larceny
 Flint City School District
Aide/Paraprofessional, Special Education, Mandated
 Larvester Bates, 1991 drunk driving 3rd or subsequent offense
 Osborn Darrough, 2001 delivery/manufacturing drugs
Behavioral Management Specialist
 Jeffery Anderson, 1989 carrying concealed weapons
Day Care
 Anquanetta Boyd, 1996 publishing counterfeit bills or notes
Language Arts
 Richard Robart, 1996 delivery/manufacturing drugs
Maintenance
 Steven Borek, 1989 delivery/manufacturing drugs
 David Jones, 2003 attempt carrying concealed weapons
 Martin Whiteaker, 1993 and 1996, malicious destruction of building
 Forest Hills Public Schools
 Michael Girodat, maintenance, 1984 armed robbery
 Fowlerville Community Schools
 Steven Demarais, maintenance, receive/conceal stolen property
 Fraser Public Schools
 James Jones, maintenance, 1972 carrying concealed weapons
 Fulton Schools
 Patrick Thrush, maintenance, 1974 arson
 Garden City School District
Maintenance
 Mark Campbell, 1994 receive/conceal stolen property
 Clyde Mason, 1987 attempt escape -- aiding prisoner
 Gaudior Academy

Michael Renaud, aide/paraprofessional, 2002 drunken driving 3rd offense
George Washington Carver Academy
Willie Trice, general K-5, 1985 delivery/manufacturing drugs
Gibraltar School District
Cathie McIntosh, transportation, larceny
Gladwin Community Schools
Hazel Lindsey, bus monitor, 1989 welfare fraud
Grand Ledge Public Schools
Sharon Martin, aide/paraprofessional, 2005 welfare fraud
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Alexander Sharp, aide/paraprofessional, 2004 attempt counterfeit bills or notes
Harvey Cage, counselor, 1969 larceny
Martin Truax, maintenance, 1981 larceny
Loretta Jackson, secretary, 1982 and 1984, uttering and publishing; 1988 attempt
delivery/manufacturing drugs
Hamtramck Public Schools

Maintenance

Bruce Kimbrough, 1972 attempt carrying concealed weapon
Eric Porter, 1989 attempt false pretenses
Hanley International Academy
John Jennings, aide/paraprofessional, 2003 larceny
Hanover-Horton Schools
John Liby, skilled worker, 1967 larceny
Hazel Park City School District
Gary Markert, business education, 1985 assault; 2000 stalking
Kendal Smith, English, 2000 carrying concealed weapon

Maintenance

Brian Easton, 2006 delivery/manufacturing drugs
Kathy Holloway, 1994 welfare fraud
Highland Park City Schools
Thirkield Hamilton, food preparer, 1993 welfare fraud

English

William Price, 1999 assault; 2002 attempt unarmed robbery
Wanda Woods, 1984 larceny
Corey Jones, maintenance, 1993 armed robbery;
Chaquetta Walker, science, 1996 embezzlement
Tina Jackson, secretary, stealing/retaining financial device; 2000 forgery
David Blevins, security guard, 1991 carrying concealed weapons; 1990 larceny
Hope of Detroit Academy
Randall Piner, security guard, 1999 receive/conceal stolen property
Hudsonville Public School District
Kevin Johnson, maintenance, 2004 criminal sexual conduct 3rd degree multiple variables
Huron Valley Schools
Beverly Marchant, food preparer, 1992 false pretenses
Ida Public School District
Donald Rudd, maintenance, 1975 unarmed robbery

Ionia Public Schools

Scott Beyer, music education, 1997 uttering and publishing counterfeit bills or notes

Jackson Public Schools

Tonia Jones, aide/paraprofessional, 2003 delivery/manufacturing drug

Bernard Nabozny, art education, 1986 delivery/manufacturing drugs

Timothy Rice, bus driver, 1990 drug possession

Sheree Sarata, bus driver, 1991 forgery

Michael Bicey, general, 1969 unarmed robbery

Steven Davis, maintenance, 1979 larceny

Kalamazoo Public School District

Craig Wilson, aide/paraprofessional, 1993 embezzlement

Jerry Kingsbury, bus driver, 1977 false pretenses

Brenda Gipson, cook manager, welfare fraud

David Bowlby, maintenance, 1981 larceny; 1980 larceny

Thomas Talbott, maintenance, 2005 assaulting/resisting/obstructing police officer

Kearsley Community Schools

Michael Lilly, art education, 1969 larceny

Kentwood Public Schools

Ronald Smith, bus driver, 1964 larceny

Lakeview School District (Calhoun)

Maintenance

Stephen Gratz, 1982 malicious destruction fire/police property

Jeffery Lee, 1996 assault

Lakewood Public Schools

Mary Bump, food service worker, 1990 larceny

Beverly Welch, general, 1985 larceny

Steven Crane, maintenance, 1986 arson

Lamphere Public Schools

Dennis Zella, maintenance, 1989 false pretenses

L'Anse Creuse Public Schools

Daniel Achs, maintenance, 1977 unarmed robbery; 1976 larceny

Lansing Public School District

Aide/paraprofessional

Pamela Demyers, 1974 1978, 1976, 1982, larceny in a building

Titonia McAfee, 1993 welfare fraud

Adam Ford, 1995 bad checks/no account, false pretenses

Food service worker

Janet Smith, 1989 bad checks/no account

General

Jannie Giles, 1985 larceny in a building

Maintenance

Perry Jennings, 1981 assault

Patricia Jones, 1987 larceny

Willard Music, 1981 malicious destruction personal property

Physical education

John Weeks, 1999 drunk driving 3rd offense

Secretary

Sondra Faggion, drug possession

Diana Weaver, 1987 false pretenses, intent to pass false vehicle title

Security Guard

Cordelia Black, 2001, assault with a dangerous weapon

Lincoln Consolidated School District

Csaba Kovacs, mathematics, 1997 aggravated stalking

Lincoln Park Public Schools

David Hall, maintenance, 1992 attempt false pretenses

Littlefield Public Schools

Kenneth Becker, maintenance, 1976, breaking and entering

Livonia Public Schools

Maintenance

Ronald Caperton, 1989 preparation to burn property

Daniel Walters, 1993 delivery/manufacturing drugs

Other (e.g., Alternative Education, ROTC) and Social Science

Thaddeus Rogowski, 1989 false pretenses; habitual offender 2nd offense notice; 1992 eavesdropping-installing device

M.L. King Jr. Education Center

Angela Wilson, general education teacher, 2002 welfare fraud

Manistee Area Schools

Daniel Lloyd, maintenance worker, 1994 and 2001 drunk driving 3rd offense

Marshall Public Schools

Chad Wager, P.E. teacher, 1997 drunk driving causing serious injury

Marvin L. Winans Academy of Performing Arts

Raymond Johnson, cook, 1981 armed robbery and attempted larceny

Judy Milner, dance teacher, 1995 assault with dangerous weapon and malicious destruction of personal property

Mason Public Schools (Ingham)

Debra Drobney, tech support, drug possession

McBain Rural Agricultural Schools

Shawn Murphy, health teacher, 1994 breaking and entering

Mount Clemens Community School District

John Pyykkonen, maintenance, larceny

Napoloeon Community Schools

Kathryn Heckaman, day care, 1991 embezzlement

Niles Community School District

Peter Johnson, special ed aide, 2000 attempted home invasion

Northridge Academy

Timothy Moore, maintenance, 1995 drug possession and carrying concealed weapon

Northwest Community Schools

Gary Jaquish, maintenance, 1982 and 1984, uttering and publishing, 1988 drug dealing/manufacturing

Novi Community School District

John Calhoun, maintenance, 1986 armed robbery; 1994 embezzlement

Daniel Greiner, maintenance, 1978 larceny; 1986 malicious destruction fire/police property

Robert Coolman, skilled worker, 1995 concealed weapon

Oak Park City School District

Wilton Burton, aide, 1989 concealed weapon

Kay Mizell, aide, 1987 larceny

Ivra Townsend, food service, 2000 attempted embezzlement

Maintenance

Robert Dockery, 1984 unarmed robbery, 1988 receiving/concealing stolen property

Vincent Parker, 1980 larceny from motor vehicle and 1981 weapons

Reginald Stevens, 1987 receiving stolen property, 2000 attempt carry concealed weapon

Old Redford Academy

Jacqueline Johnson, food service, 1986 drug dealing/manufacturing

Clarence Figgs, 1962 attempted larceny, 1997 drug dealing

Parchment School District

Randy Laws, maintenance, 1979 auto theft, 1990 breaking and entering

Christopher Thomas, security guard, 1998 concealed weapon

Wayne Tolbert, security guard, 1999 home invasion and auto theft

Timothy Kerney, skilled worker, 2001 drunk driving 3rd offense

Pennfield School District

Larry Abbott, maintenance, 2002 drunk driving causing serious injury

Pierre Toussaint Academy

Ike Byrd, aide, 1998 assault

Plymouth Education Center

Galacia Thomas, secretary, 2006 arson

Pontiac City School District

Charles Talley, business teacher, 2002 assault

Curtis Davenport, English teacher, 1975 larceny and 1988 bad check

Mary Carr, food service, 1992 manslaughter

Debra McGee, food service, 1997 selling marijuana

Deborah Gillespie, math teacher, 1980 attempted bad check

Robert Rogers, math teacher, 1982 attempted receiving stolen property

Antwoine Pilgrim, science teacher, 1994 larceny

Renee Johnson, secretary, 1993 false pretenses

David Chism, security guard, 2002 drug dealing

Aide/Paraprofessional

Gregory Dokes, career/technical, 2003 drunk driving 3rd

Lisa Black, early childhood, 1993 welfare fraud

Jacquelyn Dennison, early childhood, 1997 drug dealing and conspiracy to deal drugs

Patricia Cannon, special ed, 1988 bad check

Rita Haynes, special ed, 2001 drug possession

Fred McFadden, special ed, 1991 dealing stolen property and embezzlement

Maintenance

Kecia Brown, 1995 malicious destruction of personal property

Larnell Draper, 1969 attempted armed robbery

Vincent Gross, 1998 arson

Margaree Jones, 1997 welfare fraud

Larry Noyd, 1989 and 2001 receiving/concealing weapons

Fernandez Smith, 1983 assault
Alan Spencer, 1974 breaking and entering
Port Huron Area School District
Ricky Hill, maintenance, 1977 larceny
Keith Rivers, maintenance, 1989 concealed weapon
Brian Simmons, maintenance, 1993 drunk driving 3rd offense
Erwin Shay, tech support, 1993 auto theft
Portland Public School District
Ricky Smith, maintenance, 1974 breaking and entering
Redford Union School District
David Custard, network administrator, 1978 larceny
Richmond Community Schools
William Dezeeuw, maintenance, 1975 armed robbery
River Rouge School District
Keith Johnson, math and biology teacher, 1988 unarmed robbery
Andra Major, maintenance, 1985 drug possession and 1991 drug dealing/manufacturing
Carl Jackson, non-instructional personnel, 1991 drug possession
Riverview Community School District
Kelly Ashcraft, day care and food service, 2006 drunk driving 3rd offense
Rockford Public Schools
Maryellen Ekstrom, bus driver, 2005 false report of a felony
Ross Hill Academy
Carolyn Davis, aide, 1985 breaking and entering a coin telephone
Monica Billups, general education teacher, 1990 bad checks and failure to return rented property
Saginaw City School District
Kim Hamilton, aide, 2002 illegal use/sale of a financial device
Dorothy Brown, cook, 1987 welfare fraud
Sandra Hicks, cook, 1990 welfare fraud
Michael Coleman, maintenance, 1988 welfare fraud
John Williams, maintenance, 2003 weapons false application, three counts
Saginaw Twp. Community Schools
Kenneth Brewer, maintenance, 1965 larceny, 1969 unarmed robbery
Sand Creek Community Schools
Barbara Still, bus driver, 1989 malicious destruction of personal property
School District of the City of Inkster
Alvin Level, music teacher, 1999 embezzlement and welfare fraud
School District of Ypsilanti
Kelvin Thompson, bus driver, 1972 and 1978 heroin possession
Diane Pinson, food service, 1991 retail fraud and 1989 drug possession
John Roberts, maintenance, 1977 1st degree criminal sexual conduct
South Lake Schools
Vincent DeLorenzo, maintenance, 1985 drug dealing and possession
South Lyon Community Schools
Jeannie Curanovic, maintenance, 1997 stealing financial transaction device
South Redford School District
Bernice Murry, bus monitor, 1967 larceny

Southfield Public School District

Rosalyn Hampton, aide, 1999 stealing financial transaction device

Teresa Vernon, aide, 1990 welfare fraud

Michael Graves, maintenance, 1978 larceny

Carol Hendon, maintenance, 1990 bringing contraband into prison

Connie Hester, maintenance, 1978 2nd degree murder, 1985 and 1987 drug possession

St. Johns Public Schools

Tamara Bellinger, aide, 1988 drug possession

Linda Snater, maintenance, 1992 attempted embezzlement

Stockbridge Community Schools

Thomas Baisden, maintenance, 1989 attempted bad check

Sturgis Public Schools

Bruce Grant, bus driver, 1997 false tax return

Taylor School District

Kenneth Dauphinais, maintenance, drunk driving causing death

Janet Dunivant, maintenance, drunk-driving 3rd offense

Jill Tyra, secretary, 1985 drug possession with intent to sell

Traverse City Area Public Schools

Danial Oberski, other, (alternative ed., ROTC) 1991 assault with a dangerous weapon

John Bardenhagen, skilled worker, 2000 drunk-driving 3rd offense

Tri County Area Schools

Lisa Heuring, health services, 2000 drug possession obtained by fraud

Tri-Valley Academy of Arts and Academics

Terrance Thornhill, food service, 1994 unarmed robbery

Utica Community Schools

Kurt Wendt, maintenance, 2005 drug possession

David Crews, skilled worker, 1976 armed robbery

Vicksburg Community Schools

Sherry Green, aide, 1997 overcharging on a financial transaction device

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools

Lynne Almos, bus driver, 1975 and 1978 larcenies

Kevin LaPlante, English teacher, 2001 drunk-driving 3rd offense

Bernard McDougall, maintenance, 1976 attempted larceny from a motor vehicle

Michael Rusher, maintenance, 1984, malicious destruction of personal property

Daniel Wing, maintenance, 1993 drunk driving and habitual offender notice

Warren Consolidated Schools

Kirk Kozey, tech support, 1988 drug possession

Waterford School District

Christopher Gault, maintenance, 2002 assaulting police officer/resisting arrest

John Kennedy, maintenance, 1992 concealed weapons, forged license plates/documents

Waverly Community Schools

Paula Morris, bus driver, 2002 1st degree retail fraud and habitual offender notice

West Bloomfield School District

Patricia Post, food service, 1989 stealing financial transaction device

West MI Academy of Environmental Science

Orangel Jones, 1987, 1989 and 1991 bad checks

West Ottawa Public School District

Andrew Dekker, maintenance, 1982 larceny

White Pine Academy

Manuela Santana, food service, 2000 bad check

William C. Abney Academy

Anthony Carlisle, maintenance, 1986 larceny and armed robbery

Woodmont Academy

Casey McDaniel, maintenance, 1981 assault

Zeeland Public Schools

Michael Vankampen, general education teacher, 1989 drug dealing/manufacturing

Dean Walker, maintenance, 1983 burglary

District administrators

Christina Osumah, Detroit City School District, 1971 larceny

Aubrey Blue, Waterford School District, 1985 welfare fraud.

Note: Not all districts were contacted by The Detroit News to verify accuracy of the list. ** denotes employee who is listed in error according to school district.